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South African Transplant Society

COVID-19 AND TRANSPLANTATION

Position Statement on Transplantation in South Africa (22 October 2020)

In light of the continued evolution of the Covid-19 pandemic and the need to ensure safe provision of health care services to both Covid-19 positive patients and those without, the South African Transplantation Society (SATS) recommends that all transplant centres and donor referral hospitals have in place protocols to safely facilitate donor and transplant activity to take place.

For patients with end stage organ failures and those awaiting dialysis capacity to be opened up transplantation offers their only effective treatment. Upscaling of capacity to deal with donor referrals and promote transplant surgery activity is therefore encouraged but acknowledged to be dependent on various local factors (eg. testing, theatre availability, flight schedules, ICU capacity etc).

Nosocomial transmission to and from donors, recipients and healthcare workers remains possible and is associated with adverse outcomes. Transplant centres must continue to assess the risks (and inform patients of these) while taking steps to minimize these risks as much as possible.

The decision to proceed with transplant surgery must be, as always, a fully informed decision between the donor, recipient and transplant team performing the surgery and aftercare.

The status of the pandemic is still very fluid and vigilance is required, as such this advice may change as new information becomes available.

Dr David Thomson

SATS President

On behalf of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

"...to advance the science of transplantation and to facilitate contact between those interested in transplantation and related subjects."



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